

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9, 10, 14-17, 19-22 and 24-25 are pending in the present application, claims 7, 12, 13 and 23 having been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of the allowability of claim 13.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 14-17, 19-22, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Calvignac et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,079) in view of Nishino (U.S. Patent No. 5,375,121). Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Calvignac and Nishino in view of Chiu et al (US Patent No. 6,597,689). Claim 12 was rejected under §35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calvignac and Nishino in view of Soirinsuo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,001). To advance prosecution, and without conceding the merits of this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13, and the intervening claims 12, 7 and 2 (which have accordingly been cancelled), and independent claim 23 has been cancelled. Thus, these rejections are now moot.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned
at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By /Ronni S. Jillions/
Ronni S. Jillions
Registration No. 31,979

RSJ:srd
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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